

1 What is claimed is:

2 1. A storage container comprising;

3 a. a base panel,

4 b. a plurality of side panels fastenable to said base panel in upright orientation
thereto,

5 c. a roof panel, and

6 d. connector means for fastening said roof panel to said side panels, thereby
7 securing said side panels in said upright orientation and forming between inner surfaces of
8 said base panel, side panels and roof panel an enclosed storage space.

9 2. The container of Claim 1 wherein said connector means comprise in combination;

10 a. a first tubular hinge lug member protruding from a first one of said panels,

11 b. a second, tubular hinge lug member protruding from a second one of said panels
12 adjacent to said first panel and coaxially alignable with said first tubular member, and

13 c. a friction pin inserted into coaxially aligned bores within said first and second
14 tubular hinge members in interference fits therewithin.

15 3. The container of Claim 2 wherein said first panel is further defined as being said roof
16 panel.

17 4. The container of Claim 3 wherein said second panel is further defined as being a side
18 panel.

19 5. The container of Claim 4 wherein said first hinge lug connector member is further
20 defined as protruding downwardly from said roof panel.

21 6. The container of Claim 5 wherein said second hinge lug connector member is further
22 defined as protruding from an upper portion of said side panel.

23 7. The storage container of Claim 1 wherein at least one of said side panels is hingedly
24 fastened to said base panel.

25 8. The container of Claim 1 wherein said base panel is further defined as including a
26 skeletal frame made of a pairs of parallel hollow rectangular channel members having closed
27 upper surfaces and arranged in a rectangular grid, outer peripheral edges of each pair of said

1 channel members being located at a side of the base and having thereat a pair of spaced
2 apart tubular fork openings adapted to insertably receive a pair of laterally spaced apart forks
3 of a fork lift truck.

4 9. The container of Claim 8 wherein at least a first pair of said fork openings is located on
5 a first side of said base, and at least a second pair of said fork openings is located on a
6 second side of said base non-parallel to said first said side.

7 10. The container of Claim 9 further including a third pair of fork openings longitudinally
8 aligned within and located on a third side of said base opposite said first side.

9 11. The container of Claim 10 further including a fourth pair of fork openings longitudinally
10 aligned with and located on a fourth side of said base opposite said second side.

11 12. The container of Claim 1 wherein said base panel is further defined as having a
12 rectangular plan-view shape.

13 13. The container of Claim 12 wherein each corner of said base panel has located thereat
14 a corner connector casting comprising a generally rectangularly-shaped box having in an outer
15 face parallel to a first side of said base a bore adapted to insertably receive an elongated
16 fastener member, thereby enabling a pair of said containers to be fastened together in an end-
17 to-end arrangement.

18 14. The container of Claim 13 further including an offset connector casting comprising a
19 rectangularly-shaped box having in an outer face parallel to a second side of said base
20 perpendicular to said first side a bore adapted to insertably receive an elongated fastener
21 member, thereby enabling a pair of said containers to be fastened together in a side-by-side
22 arrangement.

23 15. The container of Claim 1 wherein said roof panel is further defined as having at each
24 corner thereof an upwardly protruding stacking block having a flat upper surface adapted to
25 support a lower surface of said base of another such container.

26 16. The container of Claim 15 wherein said stacking block is further defined as having a
27 recess formed in a side thereof.

1 17. The container of Claim 16 wherein said roof is further defined as having located
2 proximate said recess an upwardly protruding hoist ring, said ring having an uppermost edge
3 surface no higher than said upper surface of said stacking block.

4 18. The container of Claim 1 wherein said roof panel has protruding downwardly from a
5 lower surface thereof a plurality of at least two roof ribs, said ribs being laterally spaced apart
6 a distance enabling said ribs to be insertably received between inner surfaces of upper ends
7 of said side panels.

8 19. The container of Claim 18 wherein said connector means comprises in combination;

9 a. at least one, first-type tubular hinge lug member protruding downwardly from at
10 least one of said roof ribs,

11 b. at least one, second-type tubular hinge lug member protruding inwardly from one
12 of said inner surfaces of upper ends of said side panels, and

13 c. a friction pin inserted into coaxially aligned bores within said first and second type
14 tubular hinge lug members in interference fits therewithin.

15 20. The container of Claim 19 wherein said side panels of said container are further defined
16 as having at upper peripheral edges thereof horizontally disposed panel ribs having said inner
17 surfaces from which said second type tubular hinge connector lugs protrude.

18 21. The container of Claim 15 wherein said roof ribs are further defined as forming a ring-
19 shaped structure.

20 22. The container of Claim 21 wherein said roof ribs forming said ring-shaped roof rib
21 structure are further defined as having a uniform cross sectional shape.

22 23. The container of Claim 22 wherein said cross sectional shape is further defined as
23 being rectangular.

24 24. The container of Claim 23 wherein said panel ribs are further defined as having a
25 rectangular cross-sectional shape.

26 25. The container of Claim 24 wherein at least one of said roof and panel ribs is further
27 defined as being hollow.

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- 1 26. The container of Claim 22 wherein said cross-sectional shape of said roof ribs is further
- 2 defined as being that of a right triangle, said triangle having a downwardly and radially inwardly
- 3 angled hypotenuse.
- 4 27. The container of Claim 26 wherein said panel ribs are further defined as having a right-
- 5 triangular cross-sectional shape, said triangle having a downwardly and radially inwardly
- 6 angled hypotenuse.
- 7 28. The container of Claim 24 wherein at least one of said roof and panel ribs is further
- 8 defined as being hollow.
- 9 29. The container of Claim 18 wherein said roof panel is further defined as having
- 10 protruding downwards therefrom a peripheral flange spaced radially apart from said roof ribs
- 11 to form therewith a channel adapted to insertably receive an upper end surface of said side
- 12 panels.
- 13 30. In a storage container having a base, the improvement comprising a skeletal frame for
- 14 said base, said skeletal frame comprising pairs of interconnected parallel hollow channel
- 15 members having closed upper surfaces and arranged in a rectangular grid, outer peripheral
- 16 edges of each pair of said channel member being located at side of said base and having
- 17 thereat a pair of spaced apart tubular fork openings adapted to insertably receive a pair of
- 18 laterally spaced apart forks of a fork lift truck.
- 19 31. The container of Claim 30 wherein at least a first pair of said fork openings is located
- 20 on a first side of said base, and at least a second pair of said fork openings is located on a
- 21 second side of said base non-parallel to said first said side.
- 22 32. The container of Claim 31 further including a third pair of fork openings longitudinally
- 23 aligned within and located on a third side of said base opposite said first side.
- 24 33. The improvement of Claim 32 wherein said channels have a rectangular shape.
- 25 34. The improvement of Claim 33 wherein said upper surfaces of said channel members
- 26 are flat and co-planar.
- 27 35. The improvement of Claim 34 wherein said channel members are tubular.
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36. In a storage container having a rectangularly-shaped base and at least one corner of said base a first type connector body having through a front face parallel and adjacent to a first, short side of said base, an aperture through said face adapted to receive a first elongated fastener member disposed parallel to a second side of said base intersecting said first side thereof at said corner, the improvement comprising a second connector body identical to said first connector body but rotated ninety degrees in a plane parallel to said base and offset from said corner along said second side of said base, said second connector body having through an outer face thereof an aperture adapted to receive a second elongated fastener member disposed perpendicularly to said second side of said base, whereby a plurality of said containers may be interconnected via first and second connector bodies and first and second elongated fastener members in end-to-end and side-by-side configurations, respectively.

37. In a storage container having a roof panel and upright members connected at upper ends thereof at corners of said roof panel, the improvement comprising a raised L-shaped stacking block fastened to said roof panel, said stacking block having a generally flat upper surface and interior vertical side walls forming with intersecting sides of said roof panel a rectangularly-shaped space connecting with an upper end of said upright.

38. The improvement of Claim 37 wherein said upright has an end cap and a hoisting ring protruding upwardly from said end cap, said hoisting ring having an upper surface no higher than said upper surface of said stacking block.

39. The improvement of Claim 38 wherein said end cap is angled diagonally downwardly from said inner intersection of said interior vertical side walls of said L-shaped stacking block, thereby facilitating draining water from said roof panel.

40. In a storage container having at least one pair of panels pivotably interconnected by a joint including first and second tubular hinge lug members having coaxially aligned bores axially rotatable with respect to one another on a hinge pin relatively rotatable with said bores, the improvement comprising a friction pin forced into said bores in interference fits therewithin to thereby immobilize said joint.